also making efforts. As and when we get that kind of financial support, we will be able to take up more lines. Right now we are in the process of confining to the track of 6000 kms. which we have already taken up.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, gauge conversion is actually a good thing not only from the point of view of national development but also from the point of view of giving employment to the rural people of our country. Now the Minister has said that 6000 kms. line has been taken up for conversion into broad gauge, but I have to make one point at the time of allocating broad gauge conversion to various States there is a total discrimination. The reason is the backwardness of the State is not taken care of and an uneven distribution is taking place. I have no quarrel over the issue that Karnataka is being favoured in this regard, but Tamil Nadu has been ignored that is my point. My point is that only one broad gauge line is there and there is a demand from the people of Tamil Nadu and also from my Stete. *(Interruptions)*. My hon. friend is also saying about Andhra Pradesh also. From Madurai to Madras the traffic is heavy and conversion is not taken care of. Therefore, I would like to know the criterion that is being followed and whether there is an even distribution or not.

SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF: I am sorry, there is a mistaken notion. It is not distributed on the basis of States. The programme is based on one single route. The railway line is not confined to any particular State. We have taken it up from Delhi to Ahmedabad. From there to Miraj and from Miraj to Bangalore. So, it is based on the route. The idea is to attract the road traffic to the rail traffic. It is based on one single route. That is why you feel somewhere it is more and somewhere it is less. In the gauge conversion programme the lion share has gone to Rajasthan, not to any other State.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question.

Setting up of Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences in Salt Lake, Calcutta

*303. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal to set up a Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences in Salt Lake, Calcutta is under active consideration of the Government of India as a memorial of the eminent Historian, ex-Union Minister, diplomat and Governor of West Bengal late Syed Nurul Hassan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

श्री मोहम्मद अमीन : सर, ऐसा लगता है कि मंत्री जी ने इस सिलसिले में जो खतो-किताबत हुई है, उसका रिकार्ड देखा नहीं है। टाईम नहीं है, मैं सिर्फ एक लेटर पढ़ देता हूं प्रणव मुखर्जी साहब का जो इस सदन में अब आ रहे हैं। उसका एक पैराग्राफ है—

"Creation of Regional Institutes of Excellence in the field of Medical Sciences by the Central Government will be considered while finalising the Eighth Plan. I assure you that during the formulation of the 8th Plan if the scheme of establishment of Post-Graduate Institute is under Central Health Sector, priority would be accorded to Calcutta so that the long felt need of not only West Bengal but also North-Eastern region and adjoining states are fulfilled."

तो यह प्रणव मुखर्जी साहब, जो प्लानिंग कमीशन के डिप्टि चेयरमैन थे, उन्होंने पश्चिम बंगाल की सरकार को लिखा है। इसके बावजूद मंत्री जी कहते हैं कि यह सवाल पैदा नहीं होता है।

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, there are requests from various States for the establishment of such type of Institutes in their respective States. The Government has formed a committee to look into the whole problem, and the committee has also given its report. After going through the whole report the Central Government has decided that because establishment of one such Institute requires almost Rs. 200 crores, and the demand being so large from all over the country, it will be very difficult to allocate any money from the Health budget because we have other commitments to fulfil and establishment of such type of Institutes will be a very costly affair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Assistance offered by Israel to India

*304. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:
SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: